

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 14, 2003

LB 407, 468

much difference whether this be a Cash Fund or this be General Funds. It's all funds. It's all part of the appropriations process. We cannot expend LB 692 funds without going through the appropriation process. That is what was done. I will vote green for reconsideration to allow Senator Smith to proceed with FA...got my glasses on...1360, but I cannot vote for the amendment until after we do a study, and I would certainly urge the body to do the same. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Erdman, on the motion to reconsider.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I rise in support of Senator Smith's motion to reconsider and, actually, I am going to be in support of the underlying amendment, AM1884. I do, though, remember the hearing that we had. I believe the bill was LB 468, which essentially would have been a reauthorization of LB 692. There was a lot of discussion about where dollars should go versus where they were going now, and if I remember back to my first year in the Legislature, when the Appropriations Committee and the Health Committee sat down, time after time after time the mentality was let's put something together and let's try and hold together what it is we're doing here so we don't run the risk of losing those dollars for whatever reason, either for the fact that we're using them for General Fund programs like other states have done and run the risk of losing our dollars, or that we get ourselves in a situation where we're overspending on an annual basis to where the amount of dollars that we are projecting to bring in as revenue from interest isn't something that we can support. Because if we take money out of the tobacco settlement, that potentially reduces the amount of money that we have or the number of years we have to extend this, as Senator Jensen calls it, \$50 million Cash Fund savings. If we ever lose that money, we're talking about trying to figure out a way to fund these programs out of General Funds. But I'll say this. There was not a specific, and I do remember the individual that testified, there was not a specific solution presented at the hearing either. I also remember during the discussion within the Health Committee that if we go down this path, if we begin to equalize what happens in Omaha between